

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 MMS-01 HEW-02 /063 R

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CU, OAS

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

REF: MEXICO 5326

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SCHERER:

(A) CURRENT DATA ON CUBAN PRISONERS -- DEFINITE NUMBER UNAVAILABLE TO US GOVERNMENT. WITNESSES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES HAVE ESTIMATED THERE ARE MORE THAN 100,000. IN 1965 CASTRO TOLD LEE LOCKWOOD, A JOURNALIST, THAT THERE WERE 20,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS. IN OCTOBER 1974 INTERVIEW WITH CBS TELEVISION, CASTRO SAID THAT 80 PER CENT OF CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN RELEASED.

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THE REPORT ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE IAHR  
OF APRIL 1973 REFERS TO DENUNCIATIONS PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED  
BY THE COMMISSION ALLEGING CRUEL, INHUMANE AND DEGRADING  
TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AND CITED THE CASE OF PEDRO LUIS  
BOITEL, EX-PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING  
STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA. ON MAY 28, 1972,

THE COMMISSION RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION INFORMING IT THAT  
BOITEL HAD DIED IN PRISON FOLLOWING ELEVEN YEARS OF ILL-  
TREATMENT. AT THE OCTOBER 74 SESSION THE IAHR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION OF THE POLITICAL PRISONER SITUATION INCUBA  
ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA DID NOT SUPPLY REQUESTED  
INFORMATION.

AN IAHR PRESS RELEASE OF JUNE 3, 1975, REPORTING  
ON ITS MAY 1975 MEETING INDICATES THAT THE COMMISSION  
EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
IN CUBA AND DECIDED TO CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF A DRAFT RE-  
PORT ON THE SITUATION AT ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING IN  
OCTOBER, SO THAT THE REPORT MIGHT BE SUBMITTED TO THE  
OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL.

(B) POSITION OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION ON IAHR REP-  
ORT AT SAN JOSE MEETING -- HERRERA (CHILE) ANGRILY DENOUN-  
CED ASPECT OF REPORT DEALING WITH DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
TO CUBANS ON THE GROUNDS OF CUBA'S EXCLUSION FROM OAS AND  
THUS THE CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION WAS OUTSIDE THE  
COMPETENCE OF THE IAHR. CHILE ABSTAINED WHEN VOTE  
TAKEN ON DRAFT RESOLUTION.

2. WHILE ABOVE RESPONDS TO YOUR REQUEST FOR ALLEGATIONS  
OF RECENT TORTURE OR TRUE MISTREATMENT OF PERSONS IN  
CUBA (ABOUT WHICH SUBSTANTIATED INFORMATION IS RELATIVE-  
LY SPARSE), IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, AS BILL ROGERS  
STATED BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
AND COMMERCE AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS ON JUNE 11, THREE REPORTS BY THE INTER-  
AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ISSUED IN 1963, 1967  
AND 1970 DETAIL THE CASES AND INCIDENTS BROUGHT BEFORE  
THE IAHR AND ADDITIONAL DENUNCIATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN  
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THE COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORTS. ROGERS WENT ON TO POINT  
OUT THAT THE COMMISSION HAS ADDRESSED THE GOVERN-  
MENT OF CUBA ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS REQUESTING INFORMATION  
ON THE EVENTS DENOUNCED. IN VIEW OF THE SILENCE OF THE  
CUBAN GOVERNMENT, THE COMMISSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS  
PROCEDURES AND ON THE BASIS OF OTHER FACTORS, CONCLUDED  
IN ITS 1970 REPORT:

1) "THAT THERE ARE MANY PERSONS IN CUBA, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WHO HAVE BEEN JAILED FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND EXECUTED WITHOUT PRIOR TRIAL OR AFTER A TRIAL IN WHICH THE ACCUSED DID NOT ENJOY THE GUARANTEES OF DUE PROCESS."

2) "THAT THE SITUATION OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT AFTER HAVING BEEN ARBITRARILY ARRESTED AND SUBJECTED TO TRIALS IN WHICH THE GUARANTEES OF DUE PROCESS HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED, CONTINUES TO HAVE EXTREMELY SERIOUS CHARACTERISTICS INCOMPATIBLE WITH PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE CHARTER OF THE OAS, THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MAN, AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

3) COPIES OF APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF MINUTES OF SAN JOSE MEETING AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOLLOWING BY AIRGRAM. COPY OF COMPLETE TEXT OF ROGERS' STATEMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE POUCHED PREVIOUSLY.

4) HOPE THIS WILL BE OF HELP TO YOU IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SHERER. KISSINGER

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